

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 SSC-01 /146 W

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P R 060400Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8620

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2806

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT PFOR NZ

SUBJECT: LABOUR PARTY SELECTS W.E. ROWLING AS PRIME MINISTER

REFS: A. WELLINGTON 2745 (NOTAL)

B) WELLINGTON 2764 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - LABOUR PARTY CAUCUS TODAY SELECTED W.E.
"BILL" ROWLING AS PRIME MINISTER TO REPLACE THE LATE
NORMAN KIRK. ROBERT J. TIZARD WAS NAMED DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. SELECTION OF ROWLING AS PRIME MINISTER COMES AS
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NO GREAT SURPRISE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ROWLING

AND HUGH WATT WERE ONLY CANDIDATES FOR POST. AGED 47, ROWLING IS A CONFIDENT, IMPRESSIVE AND TOUGH-MINDED POLITICIAN. HIS INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES ARE CONSIDERABLE AND HE HAS AN MA DEGREE IN ECONOMICS. ROWLING SPENT A YEAR IN SEATTLE IN 1955-56 TEACHING ON A FULBRIGHT GRANT. HE PROJECTS CONFIDENCE AND AN ABILITY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. ROWLING ENTERED PARLIAMENT IN 1962 AND FROM 1969 TO 1972 WAS PRESIDENT OF THE LABOUR PARTY.

3. AS MINISTER OF FINANCE ROWLING HAS PROBABLY DONE AS GOOD A JOB AS POSSIBLE GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF WORLDWIDE INFLATION AND A PARTY MANIFESTO CALLING FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT AND NO INCREASE IN TAXATION. ALTHOUGH INFLATION IS THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE IN NEW ZEALAND IT IS NO WORSE HERE THAN IN MOST OF THE REST OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD.

4. ROWLING HAS TAKEN CARE NOT TO MAKE ANY UNNECESSARY POLITICAL ENEMIES AS MINISTER TO FINANCE AND HE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF THE LABOUR PARTY. HE WILL HAVE TO MEND FENCES WITH THE TRADE UNION WING OF THE PARTY WHICH SOLIDLY SUPPORTED WATT.

5. ROWLING HAS BEEN FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES BUT HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND ON THE QUESTION OF INVESTMENT BY MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES. HE INSISTS THAT VERY PROPOSAL FOR SUCH INVESTMENT BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED TO DETERMINE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF NEW ZEALAND. HE DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE DAY WHEN MAJOR DECISIONS AFFECTING THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF NEW ZEALAND ARE MADE BY BOARDS OF DIRECTORS IN NEW YORK, LONDON, OR TOKYO. ROWLING HAS NO REAL RECORD IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD BUT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CARRY ON KIRK'S POLICIES.

6. BOB TIZZARD'S SELECTION AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE BUT NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED. HE DEFEATED FOUR OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB. TIZZARD HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR IN HANDLING THE HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE PORTFOLIOS, TWO

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OF THE BIGGEST JOBS IN THE CABINET. TIZZARD LEANS TO THE LEFT IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO NEW ZEALAND'S EFFORTS IN VIETNAM. TIZZARD HAS NOT MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS CONCERNING FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING HIS TENURE IN CABINET. TIZZARD VISITED THE US ON A LEADER GRANT IN APRIL 1969. WHILE THIS EXPERIENCE DID NOT TURN HIM INTO A PRO-AMERICAN IT DID GIVE HIM A FAIRLY BROAD EXPOSURE TO THE AMERICAN SCENE. THE EMBASSY

WILL BE UP-DATING BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL ON HIM DURING THE
NEXT WEEK AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE TO WHAT DEGREE,
IF AT ALL, HIS LEFTIST TENDENCIES OF THE 1960S HAVE
MODERATED.

7 CAUCUS IS STILL MEETING TO DECIDE ON THE REALLOCATION
OF PORTFOLIOS. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD RESULTS AS SOON AS
KNOWN.
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